

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were pending in the present application. Of those claims, claims 1-5 and 7-17 stand rejected, and claim 6 stands objected to.

Upon entry of this amendment, which is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth below,:

- claims 1-27 will be pending
- claims 1-2, 4, 6, 9-10, and 12-13 will have been amended,
- claims 18-27 will have been added, and
- claims 1, 9, 12 and 18 will be the only independent claims.

Applicants note with thanks the Examiner's indication that claim 6, currently standing objected to, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to new claim 18, which contains the limitations of original claim 6, as well as the limitations of original claim 1, from which original claim 6 depends directly.

The present office action sets forth the following claim rejections:

- Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being "anticipated by Crocker (USP 3,519,277)."
- Claims 9-14, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being "anticipated by Letourneur (USP 5,342,282)."
- Claims 1-4 and 7-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being "unpatentable over Siman (USP 5,701,625) in view of Tooley (USP 4,348,067)."
- Claims 1-5 and 7-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being "unpatentable over Siman (USP 5,701,625) in view of Letourneur (USP 5,342,282)."

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to currently amended claims 1, 9 and 12, all of which are directed to a mounting assembly for a wafer-scrubber brush, and all of which recite at least the following limitations: an assembly block in which a housing is mounted, and a drainage opening formed in the assembly block, the drainage opening extending from a location adjacent a [first] shield. None of the presently relied-upon prior art (i.e., Crocker, Letourner, Siman, and Tooley), whether considered alone or in any combination, appear to teach or suggest a mounting assembly for a wafer scrubber brush having each of these features. Applicants note the Examiner's stated position that the one way valve 18 of the scrub cleaning machine of Siman "would read on the drainage opening" now recited in currently amended claim 1. However, Siman does not appear to teach or suggest an arrangement in which the one way valve 18 of Siman extends "from a location adjacent" a shield mounted to the drive shaft pipe 6, which would seem to be necessary for Siman to meet the requirements of any of independent claims 1, 9 and 12.

The present application teaches "a drainage opening 60 in the bearing assembly block 44 provides a low resistance path for the cleaning liquid to travel, in preference to the high resistance to liquid flow provided by [the] labyrinthine gap formed between the first shield 52 and the housing 40. Accordingly, any backed-up cleaning liquid will tend to flow out the drainage opening 60 rather than through the gap between the shield 52 and the housing 40." (Present application, page 9, lines 13-20). The "extending from a location adjacent" limitation of claims 1, 9 and 12 relates to this function and does not appear to be suggested or taught by Siman.

At least based on the fact that the presently relied upon art fails to teach or suggest all limitations of any of the

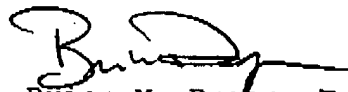
presently rejected independent claims 1, 9 or 12, Applicants urge that the present anticipation and obviousness rejections should be withdrawn, and that each of the presently rejected independent claims 1, 9 and 12 be allowed. Applicants further submit that presently rejected pending claims 1-8, 10-11, and 13-17 depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of independent claims 1, 9 and 12, and should be considered allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claims 1, 9 and 12 are submitted as being allowable.

Each of new claims 19-27 depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of the currently amended independent claims 1, 9 and 12. As such, Applicants submit that each of newly added claims 19-27 should similarly be considered allowable.

Applicants believe the claims are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same.

A separate Request for Two Month Extension of Time is enclosed with authorization to charge the requisite fee to deposit account no. 04-1696. Please charge deposit account no. 04-1696 in the amount of \$174.00 for new claims 18-27. No other fees are believed necessary. However, if any other fees are required, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696 accordingly. Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney should any issues remain.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian M. Dugan, Esq.  
Registration No. 41,720  
Dugan & Dugan, PC  
Attorneys for Applicants  
(914) 332-9081

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